



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

MAY 4, 2017

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council Pro Tem, Mike Ring at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Barry Ross, Word of Life Christian Fellowship, Cologne, NJ

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cain, Bennett, Horton, Phillips, Ring, Vizthum

ABSENT: Seher

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong, Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Ed Dennis

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING RECORDED

REPORTS

Councilwoman Horton – Public Works – her next meeting is 5/18 @ 3:30 p.m.

Councilman Phillips – Public Safety – the fire chief attended the meeting and the ISO inspection and a lower rate is better. This year they were given a 3X, which is better than the 4 they have received in the past years. Roy was very happy with that. They received a Homeland Security grant and they were able to buy an infrared camera and a GPS sonar radar. The new Clayton property was not tied into the CAD program yet and that is being corrected so when an alarm is given, the first responders know where to go. They also received a grant from Excelon for \$10,000 and they want to put that towards radios, so it's a less a burden on the city. Ed Vincent and Tom Flynn thanked Council for approving their budget request this year. They are using the fire department's Subaru for their inspections and their software has been upgraded. He was approached by residents about the "no right" turn off of Pitney Road and Woodcrest Ave. He thought it was supposed to be taken down, so he wanted to know what is happening.

Jessica – the last she remembers is that we asked the County and they said we could remove it if we wanted to, but she thought Council decided not to do that. It's up to us as to what we want to do.

Frank – a resident came to the meeting about an ordinance we have in place listing streets where your vehicles can not park and if you do, you can be ticketed or towed. On none of these areas though is there signage. She received a notice on their car to move it and not park there and moved it. He asked if the ordinance should be reviewed and possibly make changes.

Sandy – is the person who received the notice. She has lived at her property for almost 30 years and having parked “illegally” for those years, she has never seen a sign. She then gave a description of the street and explained how it does get wider at the end where her house sits, so asked if the ordinance could be changed to be able to park on the south side for about 55 ft. of parking to be allowed. It's the south side or curb side of the street that she would like changed and she showed some photos.

Eddie – can't answer about the signage not being there, but as far as the width at that end of the street, it is enough. He suggested an inventory of the streets be done and if it's not too clear, he could look at them and give some guidance.

Chief DeRitis – his update was: arrests are up 120%; 83% for summons and calls for service are up 22%. A call was made for suspicious activity and a bust was made for selling marijuana so we made two good arrests.

Frank - the police ordinance dealing with hires is in the Union's hands now for their blessing. Mentioned Res. #98 on the agenda.

Councilman Bennett – Parks & Playgrounds – no meeting; next one 5/16 @ 7 p.m.

Councilman Vizthum – Finance – has had no meeting will meet 5/18 @ 6 p.m. He read of Res. #97 and 99. We have to pay the County tax this week, which makes the bill list high.

Councilwoman Cain – Community Affairs – announced all the upcoming events in town and the vicinity. Mentioned Res. #100 on the agenda tonight.

Councilman Ring – Economic Development – the fire department and old ballfield site was discussed at the last Planning Board meeting and the board gave their approval for the city to move ahead to look into making those lots deemed “areas in need of redevelopment”.

Eddie – this project will move along and there is one developer showing interest. It has to go through several steps before being finalized and once that is complete then you can start negotiating with the developer.

Mayor Armstrong – we have every indication that the level of interest is still there with the proposed developer of Block 203. He was contacted by a resident who is interested in generating a petition to eliminate the no right turn off of Pitney onto Woodcrest. Yesterday we had a meeting to consider what type of recommendations we might wish to council with regard to the regulation of Absecon Creek in light of the two locations we will have soon. A number of ordinance changes are being drafted to be presented to the public safety committee and to parks and recreation committee for their review. We also discussed operational and supervisory recommendations.

Administrator, Jessica Thompson – spring leaf pickup will continue to the 12th. We had 9,000 lbs. of shredding on green day and the cleanup was successful as well. Half of the summer concert contracts are back and FNB of Absecon are providing the posters again. If anyone is interesting in emceeing, please let her know.

Eddie – the Creek project is underway. The bulkhead will be done soon. Turner Avenue is being cleaned up. The NJ Avenue bid opening is 5/25. Other projects in the works are: the football field; Jenkins Pond; 2017 Road program and the NJ Avenue & Highland Blvd. intersection.

Keith – where are we with the Jenkins Pond progress?

Eddie – we have the concept plan pretty much done and the next step is to talk to owners in the area and where the pipe could come out into the creek. Then a pre-application meeting will be held with the DEP and talk about what permits will be required and what kind of difficulty you could have with the permits. He hopes this could all be done by the end of the year, so the project could be budgeted for next year. The Church Street flooding is being looked into and the water company is being cooperative on fixing the repair. He checked into the school crossing light on Pitney Road and the County doesn't think a light is in the near future. We would be able to put a sign in the roadway for crossing pedestrians if we want to do that.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Phillips - second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips - second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- 97 Authorizing the City Clerk to issue Boat Ramp Permits to local Marinas.
- 98 Certifying the qualified participants in the Length of Service Program (LOSAP) for the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department for the calendar year 2016.
- 99 Authorizing refunds of overpayments of taxes on several properties due to total exempt disabled Veterans deduction.
- 100 Granting a Raffle License to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.
- 101 Designating the property commonly known as Block 203, Lots 1.01 and 1.02 on the tax map of the City as an "area in need of redevelopment" pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A.40A:12A-1 et seq. and authorizing the preparation of a redevelopment plan with respect thereto.

Motion to move the Consent Agenda – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Phillips
ROLL CALL: Cain, yes, Bennett, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$1,445,468.79

Motion to approve – Councilwoman Cain – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes, Bennett, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 4/20/2017

Motion to approve – Councilman Bennett – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Cain, yes, Bennett, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips; Ring, yes; Vizthum, abstain

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Phillips - second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips - second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

CLOSED SESSION #102-2017 – Personnel

Tim Maguire – stated the reason as a pending litigation or contract negotiation, which the public body may become a party and any matter of employment or personnel issue. It's approximately 8:00 now and the time for closed session is estimated at 30-40 minutes. No action is anticipated to be taken when they convene.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Bennett – second – Councilwoman Horton

Tim – it's now 8:27 p.m. and the item discussed was what was mentioned earlier. No action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 5/18/17